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Animal and in the Vegetable Creation, and in the production of Hurricanes and Abnormal Atmospheric Vicissitudes." Particulars regarding the conditions of the contest may be secured from the secretary, Dr. J. S. Fowler, Edinburgh.

In honor of Dr. Charles Lester Leonard who died in 1913 a martyr to research with the roentgen ray, the American Roentgen Ray Society offers a \$1,000 prize for the best piece of original research in the field of roentgen ray, radium or radioactivity. The competition is open to any one living in the United States, or its possessions, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and Cuba. The research work must be submitted in writing in the English language not later than July 1. The winner will read his paper at the annual meeting of the society in September. Dr. Henry K. Pancoast of the University Hospital is a member of the committee in charge of the competition.

THE COMMITTEE ON PHYSIOLOGICAL OPTICS OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

UNDER the auspices of the Division of Physical Sciences of the National Research Council, there has recently been formed a Committee on Physiological Optics consisting of

Professor Adelbert Ames, Dartmouth College,
Professor W. T. Bovie, Harvard University,
Dr. P. W. Cobb, Nela Research Laboratory,
Mr. L. A. Jones, Eastman Kodak Company,
Dr. W. B. Lancaster, Boston,
Dr. P. G. Nutting, Pittsburgh,
Dr. I. G. Priest, Bureau of Standards,
Professor J. P. C. Southall, Columbia University,
Dr. L. T. Troland, Emerson Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.,
Professor F. K. Richtmyer, Cornell University, Chairman.

This committee recently held a meeting in New York for the purpose of organization and discussion of the problems before it. The diversity of present theories of vision was thought to be due in large part to the circumstance that the workers in the sciences contributory to visual phenomena, such as physics, physiology and psychology, seldom,

if ever, get together to talk over problems of mutual interest and to get each other's viewpoint.

To facilitate an interchange of ideas among the various groups of workers, the committee voted to request the Optical Society of America to form a Section on Vision. Such a section has been authorized by the society and the first meeting will be held in Rochester in October, 1921. It is hoped that all those interested in the pure or applied science of vision, such as physicists, physiologists, psychologists, ophthalmologists, photochemists, illuminating engineers, etc., will join the new section and will take an active part in its work.

The committee will also immediately make a survey of present research in progress. Later will be issued a report on the present status of physiological optics with some outstanding problems for research.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the annual dinner of the National Academy of Sciences on April 26, the following medals were presented: To Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and president of the Academy, the first award of the Mary Clark Thompson Medal for distinguished achievement in geology and paleontology. To Albert I., Prince of Monaco, the Alexander Agassiz Gold Medal for contributions to the science of oceanography; to Dr. P. Zeeman, of Amsterdam, Holland, the Henry Draper Gold Medal for eminence in investigations in astronomical physics; to Rear Admiral C. D. Sigsbee, U. S. N., retired, the Agassiz Gold Medal, the same as the medal to the Prince but awarded one year later, for eminence in investigations in oceanography; to Dr. Robert Ridgway, the Daniel Giraud Elliot Gold Medal for his studies of the birds of North America, and especially in recognition of Part 8 of his "Birds of North and Middle America"; to Dr. C. W. Stiles, the Gold Medal for eminence in the application of science to the public welfare, in recognition of his work on the hook worm disease.